Welcome to the third Asia-Pacific Software Engineering Conference (APSEC '96). It is an honor for me to serve as the general chair for this international software engineering conference in the Asia-Pacific region.

Six years ago, in March 1992, the first Joint Conference on Software Engineering (JCSE) was held in Seoul organized by the Special Interest Group on Software Engineering of the Korea Information Science Society (SIGSE/KISS) and the Special Interest Group on Software Engineering of the Information Processing Society of Japan (SIGSE/IPSJ). The motivation of that regional conference was to promote technical exchanges between software engineers and researchers of these two countries. While the first conference was a closed meeting, the second conference, which was held in November of 1993 in Fukuoka, Japan, was open to other Asian countries responding to the needs for a regional conference where researchers and practitioners from this region can easily participate. Papers were submitted from all over the Asian countries and the number of submissions to the second JCSE almost doubled. With this phenomenal success of the joint conferences, the Steering Committee decided to initiate the Asia Pacific Software Engineering Conference (APSEC) opening the door to the much greater region.

The first APSEC was held in Tokyo, Japan in December 1994, followed by APSEC '95, which was held in Brisbane, Australia in December 1995. Over the years the number of submissions has increased substantially and also the quality of papers has improved steadily as can be seen in APSEC '96. Papers were submitted not just from the Asia-Pacific region but from far beyond this region. APSEC has established itself as an international conference. Now APSEC returned to Seoul where this series of meetings/conferences originally started, grown from a regional meeting with limited participation to an international conference open far beyond this region.

APSEC '96 is sponsored and organized by the Korea Information Science Society in cooperation with Korea Research Foundation, International Institute for Software Technology at the United Nations University, Electronics Technology Research Institute (ETRI), Systems Engineering Research Institute (SERI), Hyundai Information Technology Co., Ltd., and HandySoft Corporation.

I would like to thank all who submitted papers to APSEC'96. Special thanks go to Program Committee and Organization Committee members whose contribution and devotion was instrumental in making this conference a great success. Finally, I would like to welcome you to APSEC'96. I hope this conference will be a fruitful experience for you. I also hope that you enjoy while staying in Seoul, Korea.

Kisoo Sung
Conference Chair